

**LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP**

THE "EYE"

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2003

CRIME STOPPERS— A MUTUAL BENEFIT PROGRAM Some information from Crime Stoppers USA (www.crimestopusa.com)

The Crime Stoppers Program was started to provide people another avenue they could use to supply information to the police. There are usually people, other than the criminal(s), who have information that can solve a crime. Often that information is not passed on to the police because of various reasons. Three main factors creating a reluctance to provide information have been identified; they are: a fear of reprisal, an attitude of apathy, and not wanting to get involved. Crime Stoppers alleviated those factors by providing a condition of anonymity to someone giving information and by offering a monetary reward for information that leads to an arrest.

When your local Crime Stoppers number **(475-3600)** is called, the operator will document your information and assign a reference number specific to the caller and their information. The caller can check the status of their information by calling Crime Stoppers and referring to their number. Crime Stoppers information is assigned to police officers in the appropriate area or unit to which it pertains. This information then becomes one piece of an investigation. Always remember that any information requires corroboration in the form of evidence, other witnesses, or confessions. A specific report documents the outcome of the information.

Our area media assists the Crime Stoppers efforts by providing airspace to broadcast current information and requests for help regarding recent crimes. Listen to or watch for these programs at the following times:

- 10/11 KOLN/KGIN 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays & 6:00 p.m. Fridays
- TV8 KLKN Noon on the last Tuesday of the month
- 1240 AM KFOR 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays
- 1400 AM KLIN 7:00 a.m. Wednesdays
- 92.9 FM The Eagle 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays
- 106.3 FM The Blaze 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays
- 96.9 FM 96KX 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Lincoln/Lancaster County Crime Stoppers is located at PO Box 82474 Lincoln NE 68501. It is governed by a 15-member board and relies on donations from citizens and businesses. In 2002, Lincoln area Crime Stoppers received 1,432 calls. Because of those calls 400 cases were cleared and 428 arrests were made. A total of \$16,750 was paid out in rewards.

If you have any information regarding a crime you can **call CRIME STOPPERS at 475-3600** and you could receive a reward up to \$1,000.

HOME REPAIR SCAM STOPPED

In the fall of 2002, there were a series of five related fraud cases against elderly citizens totaling \$10,625 in loss. The scam involved two to three men contacting residents at their homes and offering to do unnecessary home improvements for payment up front, never to be seen again. One victim reported feeling very intimidated. These occurred across the city on three different team areas and were not connected until Detective Erin Sims identified the pattern and pulled them all together. Detective Sims identified two suspects in the cases and assisted in putting out a flyer about the crimes and the persons responsible. As a result, one of the suspects was located and through him the second suspect was arrested putting a stop to these despicable crimes. The investigation led to other cases, and to date, Detective Sims has cleared twelve cases totaling \$20,440 in loss.



Legitimate contractors do not go door-to-door soliciting for business. Remember- if you didn't call them and you don't know who they are, you should not be pressured into allowing them to do anything.

Vacation Mail Hold

The U.S. Postal Service has added a new service to its web site. You now have the convenience of putting a hold on your mail over the internet. If you go to **www.usps.com** click on "Hold Mail" and then fill in the necessary information. Mail is held for from 3 to 30 days. Having deliveries such as mail and newspapers held while you are away from home, so they do not accumulate at your porch, is a good crime prevention technique.

4th of July

This year the City of Lincoln will sponsor its Fourth of July Celebration at Oak Lake Park while renovations are being completed at Holmes Lake.



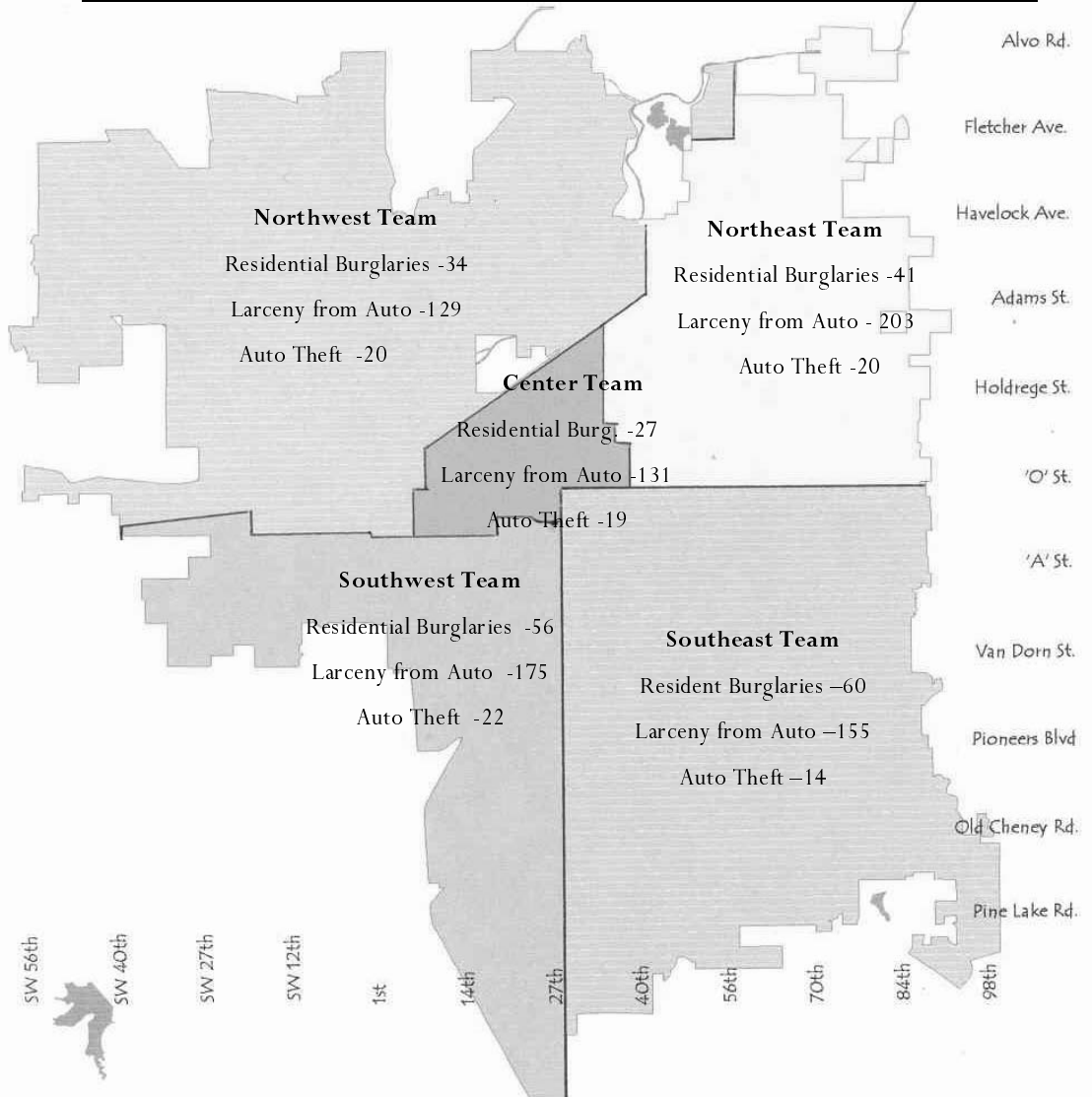
Oak Lake Park is located at 1st and Charleston streets— across the street from the Haymarket Park Baseball Stadium.



Please make sure to watch for information concerning this event. Details regarding traffic and parking will be provided in the newspaper and on television.

THE "EYE"

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2003 and 3-16-2003



For additional information, statistics, or crime maps refer to the LPD web-site at: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police

CRIME STATISTICS OVERVIEW

During the first several weeks of 2003 there were a number of commercial robberies. This is a crime where the criminal enters a business and threatens violence to steal money or other goods; cash, cigarettes, and alcoholic beverages are high on the list of property taken during a robbery. There is also a high incidence of handguns being used during the commission of these crimes. Many of these businesses could be considered a part of your neighborhood. As an added thought to being aware of what is happening in your residential area think about expanding your awareness to the businesses that are close to your home. Burglaries, where a closed business is broken into, have also occurred too often during the first part of this year. Please pay attention to businesses and schools in your area, especially during their closed hours, in case some illegal activity could be occurring there. As you pass by, or stop at these businesses, consider what kinds of things are happening both inside and out. If you observe anything unusual or suspicious try to alert employees there or go to where you can safely call the police.



2002 END OF YEAR STATISTICS— January through December

1,380 Residential burglaries 4,617 Larcenies from autos 513 Auto thefts 11,005 Larcenies

Lincoln Police officers answered 148,010 calls for service; made 25,683 misdemeanor and felony arrests; and wrote 52,843 official traffic violations.



OFFICERS' PERSEVERENCE CLEARS SEVERAL CASES

In early January 2003 there were numerous cars vandalized in Northeast Lincoln. Initially there were no suspects and not enough evidence to lead the officers investigating the cases to any arrests. On the night of January 21st, Officer Brodd was patrolling a neighborhood when he observed a car without any headlights on drive into an alley. Officer Brodd pulled off to the side of the road, waited, and watched. Soon the same car came back out of the alley and turned its lights on as it entered the street. Officer Brodd then stopped this car to investigate the suspicious behavior and driving without lights at night. When the occupants of the car were contacted, Officer Brodd could smell the odor of marijuana coming from inside. While questioning the occupants, Officer Brodd was also scanning the interior of the car and he observed a backpack there. The occupants turned the backpack over to Officer Brodd and it was found to contain illegal fireworks along with marijuana paraphernalia. These discoveries allowed a more extensive search of the car to take place. The occupants were removed from the car and detained. Officers Alesch and Wiese arrived to help Officer Brodd. While the car was searched, a number of copper BBs and some steel slingshot ammo were found in the seats and console area. All of the officers were aware of a number of previous calls in this area where car windows had been shot out. The questioning of the persons being detained expanded to finding out what they knew about these vandalisms. Ultimately a BB gun and a slingshot were recovered from the car and the occupants admitted to being responsible for vandalizing the car windows.

Because Officers Brodd, Alesch, and Wiese were diligent in observing this succession of violations and then increasing their scope of questioning to include each new facet, they were able to make arrests and clear up 27 cases of vandalisms to vehicles. The two suspects were also arrested on marijuana, fireworks, and larceny charges.

Volunteers Help Maintain Police Services

The Lincoln Police Department relies on citizen volunteers to help maintain a variety of programs. One of those programs, "QUALITY SERVICE AUDIT SURVEYS" (QSA), is designed to ensure quality police services to our citizens. The QSA was developed by The Gallup Organization and the Lincoln Police Department. LPD officers and citizen groups identified components of customer satisfaction to create the QSA. This survey then gives feedback to individual officers and to the department as a whole on how they are being perceived by citizens they contact.

Volunteers are needed to come to the police department to make phone calls to people who have been victims of crimes, drivers involved in accidents, and people who were arrested or issued a citation. These people are asked to answer a series of questions about their perceptions of the officer during their contact. The respondents answers are kept confidential. Once each month individual officers then receive a printout of responses on how they are being perceived. This can be a very important tool for the officer to use as they look for their most effective way to interact with citizens. A cumulative overview of the responses is also given to each team area captain and to the Chief of Police. They then consider how our citizens feel about police officers' behavior and determine if any changes need to be made.

At this time we are in need of volunteers who would be willing to make these important phone calls. Anyone able to work evenings, approximately 6 .pm. to 8 p.m., would be preferred. There would be a higher percentage of people home during those hours to be able to contact. If you are willing to be a volunteer for us please call **Sergeant Genelle Moore at 441-7240.**



IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP IN NEED OF EMERGENCY SERVICES ?

It shouldn't take a crime wave, or other crisis, in your neighborhood to jolt your memory that you have a Watch Group in your area. A vital Neighborhood Watch Group should encourage crime reporting, reduce the fear of crime, and motivate members' involvement in the immediate community. The reason many neighborhoods start a watch group is because of an increase, real or perceived, of criminal activity in the area. Once the threat or fear of crime is gone many watch groups return to their previous complacent ways- until a new threat appears.

At the basic level, watch group members should maintain a sense of awareness and familiarity in their neighborhood so that they can recognize when something is amiss or suspicious. Communication among the neighbors must also take place. This sharing of information could also include making sure that publications, such as this newsletter, "Crime Trend Letters," and any that your own group produces are distributed. Communication should then extend to the police. Every neighbor should feel comfortable and confident in calling the police department. Most of the time your calls are the only way that the police know something is happening in your area.

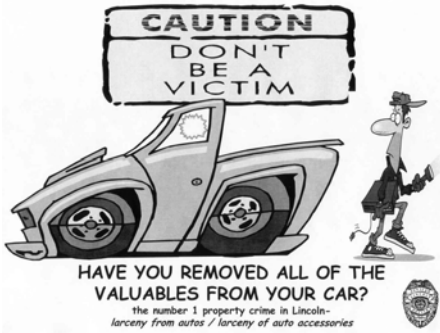
During those times that your watch group might be moving towards inactivity, try to keep in touch with other members. Encourage informal gatherings where information will naturally be shared. Devise a mutual plan on implementing improvements in your neighborhood area. Support your group's Block Coordinator. Even share, or rotate, this leadership position to prevent one person's burnout.

Lincoln has many Neighborhood Watch Groups. Their purpose being to insure the security, comfort, and quality of life in your neighborhood. Don't let this effective crime prevention tool fall by the wayside.

The "EYE" Neighborhood Watch

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP
575 SOUTH 10TH ST.
LINCOLN NE, 68508

Return Service Requested



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

BY CAPTAIN ROBERT KAWAMOTO



The Lincoln Police Department is committed to providing quality services to the Lincoln community by officers that reflect the diversity of Lincoln. This commitment to diversity is reflected in Department goals and recruitment plans. We feel we have made strides to accomplish this and are continuing to develop new plans to keep pace in an ever competitive market. The Lincoln Police Department is proud of its diversity throughout its history, noting the valuable contributions of officers of color going back to the 1890s and women serving as "matrons and police women" and finally as police officers. It is extremely important that the Lincoln Police Department continue to reflect the diversity of the residents of our great city.

One of our most valuable recruiting tools are the citizens of Lincoln themselves. We enjoy a partnership with the Lincoln community that results in many officer applicants being referred to us for employment directly from Lincoln residents who are proud of their city and have confidence in their police department. Perhaps you know of an individual in your neighborhood, family, or friends that you feel would make an excellent police officer. We'd like to speak to that person and answer any questions they might have about the job, benefits, or other points of interest. The Lincoln Police Department usually conducts two recruit academies during each calendar year with open application and testing occurring approximately five months prior to the start of the academy. We would welcome the opportunity to speak to anyone thinking about becoming a police officer.

It is especially important to begin thinking about a career in law enforcement ahead of time. In other words, it is never too early to begin the process by asking a few questions. Certainly, even a young woman or young man in high school could begin by talking to their family, asking questions about a law enforcement career, and making wise choices about their education and lifestyle. They can talk to their School Resource Officer at school or a district officer in their own neighborhood. If you, or anyone you know, have questions about a career in law enforcement, please give me a call at 441-7284, or call Sergeant Genelle Moore at 441-7240. You can also visit our web-site at: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police

Captain Kawamoto is the Commanding Officer of the Education & Personnel Unit. He has served the Lincoln Police Department for 28 years.